

Appl. No. 09/681,817

Amdt. Dated March 25, 2005

Reply to Office action of March 16, 2005

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**REMARKS**

Claims 1-18 and 25 remain pending in the above-identified application and have been rejected. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended.

Claims 1 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Japanese reference 11-149673 (hereinafter "JP reference") or publication number 2002/0081413 (hereinafter "Dalla Verda reference"). Claim 1 has been amended.

Claim 1 is directed to a method for manufacturing a data storage media. The method includes various steps, including "disposing an identifier layer onto a surface of a stamper, ... said identifier layer comprising a managed heat transfer layer". Claim 25 depends from claim 1.

The JP reference is directed to an information recording carrier that includes a stamper. The Dalla Verda reference is directed to an optical disc with an indelible watermark. Neither of these references discloses or suggests a stamper having an identifier layer that comprises a managed heat transfer layer as recited in claim 1. Since neither of the cited references, either alone or in combination, includes each and every element of claim 1, applicant submits that claims 1 and 25 are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 2-5, 15 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over either the JP reference or the Dalla Verde reference in combination with Kondo et al. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 2-5, 15 and 16 depend from claim 1. As argued above, neither the JP reference nor the Dalla Verde reference discloses or suggests a stamper having an identifier layer that comprises a managed heat transfer layer as recited in claim 1. Kondo et al. is relied upon for teaching stampers with pits and features formed by a laser beam, plasma etching or photolithography, and thus, provides no relevant teaching to the other cited references in regard to an identifier layer comprising a managed heat transfer layer. Thus, for at least the above stated reason, applicant submits that claims 2-5, 15 and 16 are patentable over the cited references.

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Claims 8-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over either the JP reference or the Dalla Verde reference. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 8-18 depend from claim 1. As argued above, neither the JP reference nor the Dalla Verde reference discloses or suggests a stamper having an identifier layer that comprises a managed heat transfer layer as recited in claim 1. Thus, applicant submits that claims 8-18 are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 6 and 7 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the objection.

Applicant submits that neither the JP reference, the Dalla Verde reference, nor Kondo et al. provide any disclosure or suggestion of an identifier layer that comprises a managed heat transfer layer as recited in claim 1, and thus claims 6 and 7 should be held patentable over these cited references along with claim 1 and its other dependent claims.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, applicant respectfully traverses the final rejection of claims 1, 2, 5-26 and 29-51. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested, and allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited.

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Should the Examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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